

Ireland (Betty) preud
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THE
SECRET HISTORY
OF
BETTY IRELAND.

CONTAINING

An interesting Account of her unfortunate Marriage at the Age of Fourteen.—Her Absconding from her Husband, and turning Prostitute.—Her Incest with her own Son.—Her being Carted for a Bawd.—Her Revenge on one of the Justices.—Her Intrigues with a Jew, whom she caused to be arrested for £300.—Her Marriage to Three Brothers within Seven Days, without the Knowledge of each other.—Her being robbed on Epping Forest.—Her intriguing with Smutty Will, an Irishman, a well known *Sharper*, with an Account of his Death in *Newgate*.—Her associating with Shoplifters, and being taken in the Fact; and the Stratagem she used to escape a Prosecution; together with many other interesting Anecdotes, &c. &c. well worth the perusal of the Curious.

Read Flanders Moll, the German Princess scan.
Then Match our Irish Betty if you can;
In Wit and Vice she did 'em both excel,
And may be justly call'd a NONPAREIL.

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THE SECRET

HISTORY OF BETTY IRELAND.

IT is a good family, says an old Proverb, *which has nei her whore nor rogue in it*; for the sake, therefore of the person from whom *Betty Ireland* is descended, I have avoided to make mention of her sur-name; in the room of which I have substituted that of the country wherein she was born.

Her grandfather was Physician to King Charles the Second, from whom he received the honor of knighthood; and while he attended that monarch in his exile, he married a German lady, whose fine house, and a very large town of which she was sole mistress, were unhappily reduced to ashes, in the space of twelve hours. Nevertheless, her dowry, at the time of her marriage, amounted to upwards of ten thousand pounds, besides plate and jewels; and coming to England with her husband at the restoration, they did not continue long in this Kingdom, but went into Ireland, where they left behind them four sons and two daughters, and made a handsome provision for each of them.

The youngest was a captain of horse, at the revolution, and attended King William in the wars of Ireland. Betty was the second daughter, and had been bred up under her grandmother, whose too indulgent nature she abused. As she was well shaped, had a fine mein, a large share of wit and sense, so she was wonderfully beautiful; to which were added the advantages of the best education. She had

scarce arrived to her fourteenth year, when she became the reigning toast of all the city: crowds of lovers constantly attended her wherever she went; and at last a match was proposed between her and the Earl of M——: but he being old enough to be her grandfather, she could not be persuaded to comply, though he offered to settle a jointure upon her of a thousand pounds a year.

Her young blood began to circulate briskly, and having a strong inclination to be made a wife, and resolving to chuse a husband, who was not many years older than herself, she unfortunately flung herself away upon a tradesmen, who, by the contrivance and assistance of her maid, palmed himself upon her for a gentleman of a good family and a large estate. She quickly conceived, and in due time brought forth a daughter: she was cast off by her relations, and despised by those who admired her before: and her husband, being haulted in his expectations of a large fortune, used her (as she often declared) very roughly, and induced her at last to act on the stage, which business he then followed.

Her friends, judging rightly what would be the consequence of this scene of life, and what a disgrace it was to them, made application to the master of the play-house, who, at their request discarded her from being an actress. Had they applied themselves sooner, they might probably have prevented what afterwards befel her; for as most gentlemen are fond of a young creature, upon her first appearance at a theatre, so Mr. M——, a gentleman of good address and fortune, found out an opportunity to seduce her, and kept company with her in private, for the space of two years. She was delivered of a second daughter, but her husband could not be induced to believe that he was the father; and thereupon an uneasiness arising between them, and their jars continually increasing, she communicated her design to her new lover, who providing handsome lodgings for her in a village, two miles distant from Dublin, received her into his arms the night that she eloped from her husband.

Here she lived for the space of twelve months, and wanted nothing that love or money could supply her with: her lover doated on her, and she had art and cunning enough to make him believe she was as fond of him, always pretending to be uneasy when he went away from her, and telling him how pensive and melancholy she sat during his absence. In a short time she informed him of her pregnant state, at which he professed great satisfaction, and the

next time he returned to her, presented her with a rich piece of silk for a gown and petticoat, a gold watch, and a diamond ring; assuring her, that if she should be delivered of a boy, he would settle three hundred pounds a years upon him for ever, and give her five hundred guineas. Nature gratified both their desires, and the child was named Richard; after the father, who faithfully performed his promise to both, and left the deed of settlement in the mother's hands, to whose care and management he left his spurious son. Betty growing weary of leading a retired life in the spring of her age, placed her child out at nurse, and took lodgings in Dublin, unknown to her kind keeper, for whom she sent a message the night she came into them. He was much surprised at this sudden change, and not thinking it proper to be seen with her in public, went to one of his acquaintance who had been privy to their intrigues, and desired her to let Betty know the reason of his not going to her that night, and how uneasy he was at the false step she had taken in coming to town; however he would dine with her the next day at the Ring in Ring's End. This message nettled Betty at first; but upon the remonstrances of her confidant, she was appeased; and they both lay together.

The next day about noon they went to the place appointed, where they met the gentleman, whose countenance was not altogether so pleasant as usual; nor did he receive Betty with his accustomed ardour. She looked upon this as a mark of contempt, or a slight at best, and could not refrain from bursting into tears. When this shower was over, she asked him what she had done, that could occasion him to treat her in so cold a manner? "Is this the recompense you make me for having sacrificed my reputation for you, and given up myself to your embraces? Ungenerous man! I am justly punished for breaking my marriage vow, and for my folly in loving a man, who does not merit my love. Say, false deceiver, are you not grown weary of me? Have you not cast your eyes upon some new face, which seems at present a more pleasing object to you, because it is new: but remember that I tell you, she will never prove so constant and faithful to you, as your Betty has been."

The gentleman was so much astonished at this unexpected attack, that he remained speechless for some time; at last he recovered his senses, and taking courage, said, "You have no reason, Betty, to call me ungenerous, for I have done more for you than you desired; I do not speak

this in a boasting way, but 'tis what I am compelled to say in my own vindication ; and yet had I done ten times more, I own it would not be a sufficient recompense for your love and fidelity to me. As to the other part of your charge, it has no other foundation than bare suggestion, and groundless jealousy, nor have I the least inclination to change one mistress for another. My reason for not coming to you last night was, that I did not judge it convenient ; for as you have taken lodgings in a very public part of the town, and our love affairs have been hitherto kept secret, should I go thither, they would soon be blazed abroad, which might be attended with a bad consequence."

Betty being convinced of the reasonableness of what he had spoke, a reconciliation was soon made by the good offices of the confidant. And after they had dined, they took coach, and went to visit their son. She promised to go very speedily to her country lodgings, and he was so well pleased with the assurance she had given him that she would perform it, he made her present of twenty guineas. When they returned to Dublin, she took her friend with her, and having continued there two nights, she pretended the air was too sharp for her constitution, and then removed ; sending a letter to her spark, to acquaint him with what she had done. Having approved her conduct herein, he came and stayed with her all night, and seldom failed either to visit or send to her every day for ten months. But she being naturally inclined to roving, could not bear this retired way of living any longer ; and the next night that her lover came to her, he told her that he was obliged to go into the country for three or four days, and desired her to divert herself during that time in what manner soever was most agreeable to her. She embraced this opportunity, and coming the next evening to Dublin, she went to the play, where she was picked up by a handsome young gentleman, with whom she went to the tavern before the play was ended, and from thence to the bagnio. This was the second loose she had given to love, and was the cause of all the misfortunes that afterwards happened to her : for her new lover being in a pickled condition, communicated the infection to her, who gave it to the person that had seduced her, before she was aware of it. This occasioned a separation, and being now entirely at her own liberty, she became in a little time so great a prostitute, that the vilest rake in the kingdom would not venture to touch her. When she

reflected upon the lamentable case she was in, she sent for a very able surgeon, who undertook to cure her, which he performed effectually in as short a compass of time, as the nature of the disease would admit; and being now like a blown deer, shunned by every one, she resolved to leave the kingdom, and try what fortune she might meet with in England, hoping she might pass there for a plumb, whose blue was not worn off. She therefore wrote a letter to her injured lover, wherein she acquainted him with her intentions, begging a thousand pardons for abusing his love and tenderness to her, and requesting him to take care of the child he had by her, and not let him suffer for the folly and imprudence of the mother. He was so sensibly touched when he read the letter, that the tears ran down his cheeks; he promised to grant her request, and to manifest that he had still a tender concern for her, and pitied the misfortunes she had unhappily plunged herself into, sent her a bank note of fifty pounds, and wished her all the prosperity imaginable.

When she came to London, she took handsome lodgings in Pall Mall; and though she had several relations, who were persons of quality, yet her character was represented to them in such black colours, that every one of them refused to see her.

She had just entered into her nineteenth year when she came to London; and as she was destitute of acquaintance, she could not tell which way to bestow her time. She looked upon the play-house to be the best market for her; and she went several nights to the pit in a mask, before she could meet with any thing to her advantage. At last she was accosted by the Lord C——, who was so captivated with her wit and humour, that he declared, if she had a face proportionable in beauty to her tongue and her shape, he should esteem her a Nonpareil. "My lord," says she, "I shall have a better opinion of myself than I have had hitherto, since a gentleman of so refined a taste and judgment approves my shape and conversation: I can assure your lordship, that my face is the same that nature made it; I use no art, nor has age plowed it with furrows." To this he replied, "Though I dare take your word in this case, yet, madam, I beg you will favour me with an ocular demonstration, that I may complete my happiness." "'Tis but a momentary felicity my lord," answered Betty, "which exists in a single view of any object, and there-

fore what is so transitory might be the better not to have been known." Before his lordship could make a return, the two lords W——— and M——— came into the pit, having sworn to pull off every mask in the house. When Betty perceived what they were doing, she unveiled her face privately, and begged his lordship's protection; who, charmed with her beauty, drew his sword, and swore he would protect her at the hazard of his life. The raking lords observing this, pursued their resolution no farther. When the play was over, his lordship offered his service to conduct Betty home; but the cunning baggage would not accept it, looking upon such an easy concession to be *malapropos* to her design, and might be interpreted as an inclination to surrender upon any terms. However, she permitted him to hand her to her chair, and he sent his footman to observe where she was set down, which proved to be the house of his lordship's milliner; but he pre-engaged her to be at the play the next night.

In the morning he went thither, and under a pretence of bespeaking some things that he wanted, enquired where was the gentlewoman that lodged in her house. To this the milliner answered, "That she could not give his lordship any satisfaction on that point; she believed her to be a stranger in the town, and that she had left her parents, but upon what account she could not tell. She had heard her say, that she had some relations in town of good quality, but did not care any of them should know what was become of her; nobody came to visit her, and she never went abroad but to the play, and always returned when that was over. She added further, that she was young and beautiful, eat and drank the best, and talked of going to the West Indies.

This account put his lordship in a brown study: however, he did not fail going to the play, but could not discover his little angel, as he called her. He then sent to the milliner, to know if the gentlewoman was gone abroad, and in what cloaths. Information was given to his lordship, as he desired; then casting his eyes about, he espied her in one of the side-boxes, and went immediately to her. "Well, madam," said he, "though you could metamorphose yourself into as many shapes as Proteus, yet love, you see, can distinguish and find you out." "Many things, my lord," replied Betty, "are attributed to love, though the little rogue knows nothing of them: and I may

venture to say, that if your lordship had not followed the example of Jupiter, and appeared to your milliner in a golden shower, I might have remained here as secure from discovery, as Danae did in the brazen tower built by her father Acrisius." "But Jupiter," said my lord, "found a favourable reception from his Danae, which mine refuses me." To this Betty replied, "He took the most effectual manner to obtain the favour, for he poured himself into her lap." "So would I," answered the lord, "if I were as sure to be as kindly received." "Look you my lord," says Betty, "gold carries with it an irresistible temptation; it makes the soldier fight, the physician prescribe, the lawyer plead, and the priest pray for you: in short 'tis here, and here alone, that the world pays an unconditional passive obedience; and if any man shall discredit what I say, I will bring the whole tribe of Levi to justify it. But I am as tired of this subject, as I am of the play, which, in my humble judgment, has not one good line in it." Says a gentleman in the side-box, "The lady, I think, is a wit, and I wonder how two of the same profession can agree. To this Betty answered, "Thoughts, sir, are free; but if I may be allowed to guess at your judgment by your dress, I must conclude, that I am but one degree above an idiot. Oh heavens! what an awkward figure does a man make, who sets up for a beau, after he has wintered his grand climacterical year!"

Herupon she made her *exit*; and my lord C ——— followed her. With much persuasion he prevailed with her to sup at the *Rose*, where they agreed upon articles of *surrender*; but he was not admitted to take possession till they were ratified and confirmed. Soon after the play was done, she went home in a coach, having engaged my lord to dine with her the next day; and in the morning she consulted with the milliner what entertainment to provide for his lordship. The woman who had more honour and honesty than most of the same trade, took an opportunity of asking Betty, whether she was intimately acquainted with his lordship,? Who telling her, that she had no further knowledge of him than seeing and talking with him a few nights at the play, and that he made love to her upon honourable terms, she believed, said, "Madam, I advise you as a friend, to be upon your guard, for I can assure you, his lordship is already married, and his father the Earl of M ———, is living; and then judge you, whether he has

not a design to trepan your innocence: but I must request you will not reveal this secret, lest I should lose his lordship's custom. Betty, counterfeiting the innocence of the *dove*, though she had more of the *serpent* in her, pretended to be very much surprised at this intelligence; "well, said she, "there is no faith in man; however I will entertain my lord civilly, and to prevent an opportunity of his paying me a second visit, will remove to another part of the town to morrow.

While they were in discourse my lord came, and saluted Betty in a very modest manner; who desired the milliner to send her servant to the tavern to hasten dinner. During her absence, she related what had passed between them: and enjoined his lordship to continue a customer to her, lest it might give some umbrage of suspicion: this he promised to do, and then told her, that he had provided lodgings for her in Bow-street, by Covent-garden; promising that she should be there in a night or two, and that she must pass for his wife. Dinner was upon the table; and Betty, to put a good gloss upon the matter, would not sit down, till the milliner came to keep company with them. Every thing was carried in a very handsome manner, without the least distrust. His lordship would have treated them with a play, but they desired to be excused; and in the evening he took leave, promising to wait upon them again.

In a little time after he went away, Betty persuaded the milliner to accompany her to the playhouse, under pretence of observing his lordship's motions; and they had not been long in the pit, before my lord came into one of the boxes. Betty gave him the signal slyly, and he presently came to them: "What have we got here," said he, "a *duenna* and her young lady! Good madam Cynthia behind a cloud, unveil yourself." "I dare not, sir," answered Betty; "if I should take off my mask, it is possible I might discover an old face, or an old acquaintance, and would not either of them be a great mortification to you?" "Yes, faith," replied my lord, "and I thank you for the *memento*; you see I have not the curiosity of mother Eve." "But I am persuaded," replied Betty, "that you would venture to play the fool like father Adam, and joyfully accept what the *serpent* left." "Say you so, my little nymph of Venus?" quoth my lord; and then putting his hand on her neck, the milliner said, "Pray, sir, forbear, and use no

rudeness to my daughter." "Look you, mother," said my lord, "I know you deal in *brittle ware*, but if you will promise the *pipkin* is not *cracked*, I will become a purchaser." He then took out his purse, but Betty desired him to keep his money, and pay his tradesmen; for as quarter-day was near, she was sure that he would have a numerous levee of creditors next morning. "Truly, madam," said my lord, "if every part about you be as nimble as your tongue, your husband need not fear going to heaven." "I believe it," replied Betty, "for you are so charitable, that you would willingly help him forward in his journey thither, by planting as large a pair of horns on his frontlet, as any alderman wears, and so make him appear a buck of the first head. But the world entertains a very wrong notion of cuckolds going to heaven, for as the path is narrow, their horns must certainly prevent their entrance." "Well madam," said my lord, "your observation is just, and I find you women will maintain your prerogative in having the last word." "Yes," says she, "as you fight for the preservation of your liberty and property, it is but reasonable that we exert ourselves in the defence of ours."

Here my lord left them, and they went home in a hackney coach, diverting themselves at supper with what had passed at the playhouse. The next morning when they had breakfasted, Betty went abroad under a pretence of getting new lodgings, that she might avoid the snare which my lord had laid for her; and when she returned, told the milliner, she had furnished herself with what she wanted, at a relation's house. Every thing was packed up immediately; and, taking her leave, lay that night at Hampstead. My lord met her the night following, conducted her to the new lodgings, had a very elegant supper prepared, and they lay together. When she was in bed, my lord came to her, and said, "Though I cannot change myself into a golden shower, for the sake of my Danae, yet I can pour one into her lap: then slipping a purse with a hundred guineas down her bosom, took her about the neck and kissed her, as an earnest of what was to follow. "My lord," said she, "what I spoke of Danae jocularly purchasing love, is my aversion; I therefore desire you will take your purse, or not come to bed: I am no mercenary person, and love for love is all I expect." His lordship was wonderfully surprised at this generous treatment, and obeyed her orders, though it was with reluctance.

In the morning he presented her with a diamond necklace and pendants, and conveyed the purse of gold privately into her pocket; nor had she occasion, during the several years that she was kept by his lordship, to ask for any thing, which he prevented by his constant supplies. He furnished her with a coach, which was entirely at her command, a footman, and a waiting-maid. She had the best of wine, and the best of eatables, from a tavern opposite to her lodgings, and an allowance of three hundred pounds a year from his lordship for pin money.

As she had a good judgment in poetry, especially the dramatic kind, my lord introduced a young gentleman to her, some of whose works are the stock-plays of the old house at this day. Every scene was brought to her, and was continued, altered, or left out, as she approved or disliked it; and she always gave very good reasons for the objections she made. But, notwithstanding my lord was extremely fond of her, yet she could not forbear intriguing with the young poet, of whom his lordship began to entertain a jealousy; and a confirmation would have ensued, had it not been for a lucky thought, which, I shall be very brief in relating, because it has been introduced on the stage as an incident in the Trip to the Jubilee, where her character is drawn in the part of Lady Lurewell.

This young gentleman dined with Betty one day, and they were very familiar, not expecting to be surprised by his lordship; who, instead of going directly to her lodgings, was set down at Will's Coffee-house in Bow Street, which at that time was frequented by the wits of the age. Her servant seeing my lord go in, acquainted his mistress with it, and the son of Apollo, not knowing how to get off without being discovered, called a porter, and changed clothes with him. By this method he escaped, but the porter was seen by his lordship, who asked Betty, what aukward animal she had entertained? Betty, who had a quick invention, answered, if you will look in his face, you may discern Dick the porter in masquerade. The gentleman, whom you patronize, has dressed him in his own cloaths, and sent him here to know whether I would permit him to pay me a visit in your absence. "Prithee, Dick," says my lord, "tell him from me that his company will be very acceptable." Away goes Dick, but where to find the gentleman he knew not; and happening to see a mob in Covent Garden, he goes thither. The gentleman being met by the

porter's wife, who was hunting for her husband, because he had not been at home the last night, stopped him, and seeing Dick's cloaths on his back, concluded he had murdered him; but the supposed dead man came opportunely to prevent his being carried before a magistrate. They went to an alehouse, and changed their apparel, and then the porter, who had a crown for his labour, told him what had passed, and that my lord desired his company. From hence he went to a tavern, and refreshed himself with a glass of wine, while he sent for clean linen and another peruke; he then went to his lordship, to whom he related what had passed, and how narrowly he escaped being mobbed and imprisoned; which afforded much diversion.

As he knew that Betty was a woman who required not much importunity to grant the last favour; and reflecting on the other hand, that he had often partook of his lordship's liberality, whose friendship he was unwilling to lose for the sake of a woman, whom he believed, would not prove constant to any man: he thought there was no better way to secure his interest in both, than to get a wife with a tolerable fortune. He was recommended in a little time to a very agreeable gentlewoman, who had five hundred pounds; a sum which he could not expect from the nine muses, tho' they had beauty and harmonious voices; were as poor as Job, and had scarce a smock to their backs. He therefore courted her with assiduity, and invited her one day to Bartholomew Fair. My lord and Betty happened to take a ramble there at the same time; and going into the Cloysters, saw the young spark raffling for a fine set of china, which he won. His mistress stood by him, and he designed to present her with fortune's favor: but perceiving my lord, and knowing presently who was with him, he took up the china, and pretending to slip, dashed the cups, saucers, and a large punch bowl to pieces. This he did on purpose: for had he presented them to Betty, he would have lost his mistress, who must needs have been affronted at such a proceeding; and then again he considered, that he might have disoblged my lord and Betty, if he had given them to the gentlewoman, whom he designed for his wife. Every body lamented the unhappy accident, except my lord; whose judgment was as quick as his eye. "You see, young gentleman," says he, "that fortune is fickle, and has as little regard to men of sense, as she has to fools; however, let me me advise you to make

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better use of her favours for the future, lest you provoke her to frown upon you for ever." He then put ten guineas in his hand, and desired his company at dinner next day, without giving himself the trouble of sending a porter with any message whatever.

This seasonable supply enabled him to raffle again; but not having any luck, the gentlewoman desired him to desist. He obeyed her commands, and presenting her with a fan, which cost half a guinea, they left the Cloysters, and went to the tavern, from whence they adjourned to the play.

At dinner he was rallied very smartly on account of the gentlewoman who was with him, and what happened to the china; he very ingenuously disclosed the cause of the accident; and my lord asking him whether he was serious in his courtship, he answered in the affirmative; adding, that a good wife, and a tolerable fortune, would quicken his wit, and oblige him to be the more diligent. "I am dubious," said Betty, "whether that assertion can be maintained; for though money may be a means to enliven a man's spirits, and quicken his thoughts, so far as it enables him to purchase a flask of the best wine; yet the care of a family, and the drudgery of a nuptial bed, must certainly cramp his genius." "I allow, Madam," replied he, "that what you say may be true, and has often proved so in many respects; but such an unhappy fate attends only such stupid animals, who are uxorious, and absorbed in indolence. For my part, I would as soon be priest-ridden, as wife-ridden; and as for the care of the family, I shall leave it entirely to the mistress of it. I am resolved to enjoy my friend and my bottle, while I am capable of doing either. I will steer this course of life as long as it is permitted me to live." "I approve your resolution," says my lord; "and if you persevere therein, matrimony will be no impediment to the progress of your wit and humour." "But, my lord," says Betty, "as his play is coming off the stocks, it is high time for him to think of a patron; and if I may guess at his intentions, I believe he designs to dedicate it to your lordship, and in my opinion, you are the properest person to accept it." "I desire to be excused," answered my lord, "and I will introduce him to a nobleman, who will not only be proud of a dedication, but acknowledge it with a handsome gratuity. However, that I may not be thought to decline it, as if I intended thereby not to open my purse, I desire, Betty, you will prevail with your right hand

guest to accept this trifle." He then put a bank-note of fifty pounds into her hand, which she gave to the young poet.

If his lordship had been possessed of his father's estates, they would have produced thirty thousand pounds yearly; but what was settled upon him was only six thousand. He was a gentleman of the best wit, sense, and judgment; he was the best patron, and the best friend; had a generous soul, and, making an allowance for his small fortune, compared with what Cæsar and Alexander possessed, he exceeded those emperors in liberality, and was the greatest encourager of learning. One day, in the heat of summer, he drank three large glasses of lemonade, and was soon after seized with a shivering; this he thought to drive away by solacing himself in the arms of his Betty; but he exerted himself so strenuously, and so often, that he was thrown into a fever, and obliged to be carried home about twelve o'clock, giving strict orders to the chairmen not to let any body know the place from whence they brought him. Physicians attended him next day, and, his fever increasing, they had no hopes of his recovery. He then sent for his favourite poet, to whom he made a present of a note for two hundred guineas, and telling him, that as it was not proper for his Betty to come to him, he entrusted him to deliver another to her for five hundred, in consideration of the five children he had by her. The signs of approaching death were visible, and the last words he uttered were, "Lift me up, my friend, for I am sinking; remember me to Betty, and——" He could speak no more, but expired in his arms.

In the evening he came to Betty's lodgings, and acquainted her with the news of my lord's death: she swooned, but, it may be reasonably supposed, not for the value she had for his person, but on account of her being rendered incapable of living so profusely for the future, as she had done some years past. When she recovered her senses, she ordered a bottle of wine to be brought, and drank a large glass; but as soon as the poet had discharged his trust, she appeared very alert, and reading over the order for five hundred guineas a second time, like an ungrateful and insulting wretch as she was, said, "Methinks there is great harmony in the words five hundred guineas. Well, mourning will not avail any thing, and sorrow is as great an enemy to a pretty face, as age or the small pox; I will therefore

drive it from me." Hereupon she drank a bumper; and telling her friend, that she could not possibly lie alone, invited him to stay with her all night. He was so provoked at her unaccountable behaviour, that he advised her to send for a porter, or rather a jack-ass. "How can you, said he, divest yourself so much of humanity? Is nothing due to the memory of the best friend you ever had, or ever will have? Can you trample thus upon him, before he be put into his coffin? O barbarous and ungrateful woman! a just and heavy punishment hangs over your head; vengeance will soon overtake you; infamy, disgrace, and sordid poverty be thy portion; mayst thou live to be contemned by all mankind, die a miserable death, and unlamented." He thereupon went out of the dining room, and looked upon her with eyes that glowed with rage and indignation.

Betty, whose heart was so hardened, that no misfortunes could penetrate it, or could be affected with the loss of the best friend, was very restless all night; not for the death of my lord, because she would sacrifice all the world on account of self interest; but lest she might be prevented from receiving the money, and her amours be discovered to the family, between eight and nine in the morning, she went to the banker's, attended by her footman, and receiving a hundred guineas, lodged that sum in another goldsmith's hands, and then returning home, sold her coach and horses, and discharged her servants; giving each of them a quarter's wages more than was due to them. Upon second thoughts, she judged it more advisable to keep her woman, who had been let into the secret of her way of living; and removing from Bow Street, went into cheaper lodgings in Hatton Garden, where she lived retired till the lord was buried, and the search over, which she imagined would be made after her.

What is got over the devil's back, will be spent under his belly, says the proverb. This was verified in Betty, who being under no apprehension of danger, nor troubling her head with any fore-thought, lived a very extravagant life, chusing always to be the mistress of the company, and taking a delight in treating every body.

She was now in the thirtieth year of her age, when, going one day through Westminster Abbey, she met a beautiful youth, who boarded hard by, and was under the care of Doctor Busby. The sight of him touched her to the quick, and making an inquiry, she was convinced that it was her

own son, begotten by Mr. M——, who first seduced her; she understood that he passed for his kinsman, and sent him a letter to desire he would permit her son to continue with her a fortnight. He complied with this; and the youth had an apartment provided for him, and was informed by the gentleman, that she was his mother, whom he had supposed to be dead. He wanted not for sense or wit, and she doated on him. The young spark proved to be *be a chip of the old block*; and being supplied with money, pressed the maid to let him lie with her; and when he found he was constantly repulsed, he offered her a guinea, saying, he had lain with several for less money. His importunity was so great, that she discovered the affair to his mother, who bid her appoint a night for him to come to her, and she would exchange beds with her, and read him a lecture, as the surest way to prevent his designs for the future. This was done; the mistress goes to her servant's bed, and soon after came the young gentleman: but a horrible scene ensued; for the mother, instead of reprimanding him, was so be-deviled, as to suffer him to commit the detestable sin of incest, by the means of which she quickly conceived.

She now, but too late, reflected on her unparalleled infamy, and finding that she could not much longer conceal her pregnancy, she retired to the country, where she was delivered of a daughter, whom she put to nurse, and leaving money in the hands of an alderman of York, desired him to take care of her child, while she returned to London to settle her affairs.

When she had recovered the fatigue of her journey, she desired and obtained an interview with Mr. M——, and asked what he designed to do with her son? He told her, that he proposed to qualify him for the University, and then breed him up to the law. She approved this method, and produced a bank-note for sixty-pounds, which she desired might be laid out in purchasing chambers for him in the Temple. He looked upon this as a singular testimony of her maternal love and affection, and was so well pleased, that he would not accept it, but promised to do more than that for him, and make an addition of an hundred pounds a year to what he had already settled upon him.

They then parted; and soon after she purchased an annuity for the daughter, whom she had by her son, and appointed the alderman of York her trustee, desiring she

might be placed at the best boarding school, as soon as she should be capable of being sent thither.

Being resolved to give a loose to her desires, and to gratify her vicious inclinations in all kinds of sensuality, she took a small house, for which she paid twenty pounds a year, and furnished it very decently. She privately sold drams, punch, and wine upon occasion, which she sent for to a tavern, and most unconscionably would charge three shillings a flask, though it held little more than a pint and a half; and she always kept a brace of *Bona Robas* to accommodate her customers. But though she had a great trade, yet she was so very profuse, that she saved nothing at the month's end; nay she was a looser in the main, if it be considered what she was obliged to pay weekly, by way of contribution, to the informers, bullies, constables, and watchmen: for she was soon blown, (as they term it) and compelled to condescend to their exactions, otherwise she must shut up her doors.

There was no woman of the sisterhood, who knew how to behave herself as Betty did; she jilted the gentlemen, and prostituted herself to those of an inferior rank, if she liked their persons. She would drink like a fish-woman, and her company was coveted by men of every degree; for she adapted her discourse to the capacity of those that came to her house. If they did not approve the doxies which she constantly retained, they were at liberty to send for or bring others with them; and her house was the rendezvous of many ladies and merchants' wives.

She pursued this trade for some time, but paid dearly for it; which was occasioned by what follows: a young gentleman of the Temple, having long solicited a tradesman's daughter in Fleet Street, to grant him the favour, she at last consented, provided he could find a proper place. He makes his application to Betty, who told him, that it was a dangerous enterprize, and she might be ruined, if it should be discovered that she had been debauched in her house: however, if he would give her ten guineas, and follow her directions, all might be well. She then proposed that he should take a lodging in her house, and when he had lain there a night or two, he might bring the young lady thither as his wife. To this he agreed, the money was paid, and when he had communicated his design to his mistress, she complied to meet him the next Sunday night. Accordingly she pretended to go to evening prayers, where

she met with her lover; he conducted her to a tavern, and sent a porter to Betty, desiring she would order a good fire to be made, and put clean sheets on the bed, for his wife was come to town; and they would be at his lodgings in less than an hour. Every thing was done according to his directions; they came thither, went to bed, and stayed all night.

In the morning the young creature began to repent of her folly, and what to do she could not tell; she dared not go home, because she was not able to give any satisfactory account to her parents where she had been. At last she determined to take a coach for Highgate, and apply herself to her grandmother, who was extremely fond of her: to whom she said, that she had walked in the fields all night, and was resolved not to return home, till peace was made with her father, and that he would promise she should not be married to the mercer, who had obtained his consent, but not hers. The grandmother was overjoyed to see her, and pitying her sufferings, said she would undertake to work a reconciliation at home; and here we shall leave her, and return to London.

The parents were so disturbed at their daughter's absence, that they could not take any rest. A thousand various thoughts came into their heads, which soon gave place to a thousand others: in the morning they sent up and down, but could not get any intelligence of their child, which put them in the utmost confusion imaginable. At this juncture the mercer came, who said he was sorry to find them in so much affliction, and that he must discharge his friendship to them, by acquainting them, that he had seen a young student in the Temple, and their daughter go into a bawdy house the night before, and he presumed they lay there all night. This news made them almost distracted; but in the interim came a letter from the grandmother, wherein she desired they would make themselves easy in respect of their daughter, who was safe with her. This raised their drooping spirits, insomuch that they resented the affront, which the mercer had offered, in taking away the reputation of a young innocent creature, whom he respected, and they had promised should be his wife. "I wish," said he, "it may prove to be a mistake; but I insist upon it to be literally true; and Sir," continued he, "I will give you undeniable proof of it in the evening;" and thereupon he withdrew.

Presently after, the grandmother and her grand daughter came; who used all the arguments imaginable to break off the match: "That is done already, I believe," said the father; and then he related what the mercer had told him. Upon this the daughter fell in a swoon, and was immediately put to bed, and her grandmother attended her.

In the evening the mercer and the father went to Betty's house, where they had a bowl of punch, and as they were drinking, she was asked if a gentleman did not bring a young lady there the last night? She answered, "that she had a gentleman, who lodged in her house, and that he did bring his wife with him, but that she had not seen them since the morning, but that Tom the porter, who plies at the Temple Gate, could probably inform them where the lodger was, whom she expected every hour. Having received this information, they soon found Tom, who acquainted them with the gentleman's name, and at what tavern he was at that time. They went thither, and going into a room, sent for him, who coming immediately, was surprised to see the father of his mistress there. "Look you, Sir," said he, "I understand you have debauched my daughter, for I have been at the house where you lay with her last night, and have had the secret revealed to me: I expect that you will produce her, otherwise you must expect nothing less than a jail shall be your portion." "Truly, Sir, said the Templar, "your daughter parted from me in the morning, and I know not where she went; but as for that Jezebel, who has betrayed me, she shall suffer according to law, for I gave her ten guineas to oblige her to secrecy." "Did you so?" said the father; "then, Sir, if you will assist me, I will prosecute her." This he promised to perform, believing that Betty had discovered the intrigue; and a warrant being obtained, she gave bail; and having traversed the indictment, was tried at the next session after.

Her counsellors pleaded very strenuously, that allowing what had been said to be true, yet it could not affect her so far as to prove her a bawd; and the informing constables deposed, that they never heard any complaint made against her keeping a disorderly house, or found any lewd persons in it. The justices were divided in their opinions; however the majority over-ruled the rest, and ordered Betty to be carted from the Gate-house in Westminster, to Charing Cross, which sentence she suffered.

She soon broke up house-keeping, and resolved to be revenged of one of the justices who exerted himself against her more haughtily than the rest. She was informed that he loved a pretty girl in a corner as well as the most demure sinner; and after some small time had passed, she took a fine lodging, and dressing herself in rich apparel, she flung herself one day in his way, who could not resist the temptation. She kept him at a distance for some time, which made him the more eager; and during that time, she looked out for one of the pockiest fellows she could get to lie with her. Being now deeply pickled, she admitted his worship to her embraces, who soon found he had met a hotter reception than he expected. The next day she left her lodgings, and hired an apartment in an apothecary's house, by whom she was salivated: and the justice was necessitated to go into the powdering tub. But her revenge ended not here, for she wrote a smart account of what had befallen him, of the presents he had made her, and what he suffered; wherein she set him forth in such lively colours, that every body knew his person by his picture. This was a second mortification to him, and he used all the means imaginable to find out Betty, but all to no purpose.

It has been a general observation, which time and experience have evinced to be true, that women are endearing, indulgent, and compassionate by nature; but when they become apostates from virtue, divesting themselves of chastity, and embrace vice, they degenerate from bad to worse, till at last their endearments are changed into rage, their indulgence into hatred, and their compassion into cruelty. They will stick at nothing to gratify their revenge, lust, and barbarity; and when they have contracted such vicious habits, they become more implacable, more barbarous, than the most savage Indians. They triumph in acts of inhumanity, and take a pleasure in putting their fellow creatures to the severest torments. These have partly appeared in the foregoing part of this history, and the rest will be made out in what shall follow.

Betty having passed the fiery trial, began to recover her strength and complexion; she now employed her time in consulting what course of life she should steer next; and upon mature deliberation, judged the city to be the properest place for her purpose, where she could not fail of meeting good booty among the Jews, London beaux, and raking

apprentices. She hired lodgings in Aldermanbury, and furnished them in a very complete manner. She soon had many visitors, each of whom she encouraged, till at length they began to be jealous of one another. She managed her affairs so dextrously, that she was kept by a Jew, and three brothers, (who were merchants) at one time, and yet was not discovered by one of them. Interest was the motive that induced her to embrace the Jew, but lust and interest combined together to make her prostitute herself to the three others.

The presents she received from her gallants were very valuable; and though she had so many strings to her bow, yet she could not confine herself to those by whom she was kept, but like a true-bred kept mistress, she had one on whom she had not only bestowed her favours, but allowed him a handsome maintenance. She at last prevailed with the Jew to own her as his wife, with which he more readily complied, imagining that he might thereby secure her to himself, and prevent the solicitations of others. But Betty had other ends in view; for having caused the news of her supposed marriage to be industriously spread abroad, she took up many things in his name, which amounted to three hundred pounds and upwards; but when the creditors came to demand payment, she told them they must apply to her husband for the money. This they did, but he disowning her to be his wife, and refusing to give them satisfaction, they arrested him, and put him into one of the compters, where he remained till the Monday following, not being able to procure bail among his tribe, it being their sabbath when the officers took him. This account was soon brought to Betty's ears, who judging it high time to shift her quarters, and taking a new lodging at Bethnal-green, told her landlady, that she was obliged to sell her goods to redeem her husband from captivity, before other actions could be laid upon him. The good woman, pitying the misfortunes she had fallen into, said, that she would give five pounds for them more than any broker should appraise them at. The bargain was made, and the money paid to her in less than two hours. She then took coach, and went to her new habitation.

To prevent the merchants from enquiring what was become of her, she sent each of them a letter, wherein she made a plausible excuse for her removal, and acquainted them at what house they might find her; she also appointed

different days for their coming to her, that their intrigues might be kept private. In this state of life she continued for two years, when their creditors began to draw bills upon them so fast, that they could not readily make prompt payment. They discovered their creditors to Betty on the separate days of their coming, who pretended to condole with them in their unhappy situation of affairs; she told them, that she had some money by her, but that she hoped they did not expect she should strip herself to supply them. They replied, that no such thing was desired; but as they did not doubt of having large remittances from abroad in a very little time, it would be an act of generous friendship, if she would assist them at such a critical juncture with six or seven hundred pounds, which would not only preserve their credit, but enable them to take up more commodities, which would turn to good account. To this she answered, that if they would marry her, (for ~~says~~ she "I am weary of leading this wicked life,") they might command and not borrow; and she allowed them a week to consider of it, adding, that their marriage should be kept as secret as they pleased.

Finding that they could not prevent their becoming bankrupts, but by ratifying the article proposed by Betty, they were compelled by necessity to yield to it. She then pitched upon three different days, and to each of them gave a different name to be inserted in the license, and ordered them to take lodgings at Newington-Butts, Kensington, and Highgate; at each of which places she was married, having first secured all her moveables, as rings, watches, jewels, &c. which she deposited in a banker's hands, and took a note for two hundred pounds, which she sewed up in the lining of her stays.

In less than three months the brothers had merchandizes of considerable value consigned to them, and large remittances from abroad; so that they now began to repent their bargain, yet they would not reveal the secret. Betty soon perceived a coldness in them, which she seemed to resent, but was inwardly well pleased; for she knew they were rich, their credit great, and therefore she resolved to make the most of them. She told them plainly, that as their reputation would have been lost, if she had not supported them in their necessity, they were very ungrateful in using her in such an indifferent manner; and since they were in flourishing circumstances, she would not lead a retired life any

longer. The latter part of this speech was a mortification to them, and what they dreaded would break out in time. The elder brother bullied her, and said that whatever she might think of saving his reputation, he was sure he was entirely lost by his imprudent marriage with her. "If you think so," says she, "I will use my utmost endeavours to confirm you in your opinion; and therefore I desire you will prepare to receive me at your house by this day se'nnight." This struck him all of a heap, and he went away in the most confused manner, fearing she would be punctual to her time, though she did not design any such thing.

The two other brothers used a smoother method; and soon prevailed with her to agree to a separation, which was to be managed and kept with all the privacy imaginable. This was what she aimed at from the beginning; and upon each of them paying five hundred pounds, the articles were signed and interchanged.

Having finished this affair, Betty took coach for London, and going to a tavern near the Royal Exchange, sent a letter to the elder brother, wherein she acquainted him, that if he did not come to her upon sight thereof, she would go and take possession of his house. This unexpected news put him into great disorder; he dreaded the sight of her, but much more her coming home to him. He went to the tavern, and, being naturally morose, spoke in the following manner: "Madam, I have received your letter; but what brought you to town, and what business have you with me?" "Truly, sir," says she, "I think you ask very impertinent and needless questions; I have very little business with you other than what a wife ought to have with her husband, and if you deny me, I can easily prove my marriage." "Can you so?" said he, "I am heartily sorry for it: I would give a thousand pounds to be free from you." "If that be all you want," replied Betty, "then to manifest that I can use you with as much indifference as you have shown to me, I have a mind to take you at your word." "I wish you would," answered the husband, "I should reckon it the happiest day of my life." "Why then," said Betty, "I will get instruments drawn, whereby we shall be separated one from another, which shall be done and executed in the most secret manner, and signed by us, upon paying me one thousand pounds, and allowing me fifty pounds a year for my life." "I did not mention the additional article," said he, "but if you insist upon it, I

will comply." "I not only insist upon it," answered Betty, "but I will not seal and deliver without it. Now name the place where we shall meet to-morrow, when the hurry of your business is over, and I will bring a lawyer with the writings." "Look you," said he, "let the annuity be dropt, and I will add three hundred pounds to the thousand." "No," said Betty, "I will not yield to that proposal; but add four hundred pounds, and I will be satisfied." Upon second thoughts he judged it more prudent to comply, lest she should come or send to demand her annuity, and his marriage might then be discovered. The next afternoon they met at the place appointed; all things were performed to their mutual satisfaction, and when Betty took her leave of the company, she went and lodged her bank-notes, which she had received from her husband on account of their separation, with her banker, and paid the principal and interest due on her watches, rings, and other moveables, which she brought away with her.

As it frequently happens that women have a more tender affection for their spurious or natural-born children than for those who are legitimate, or begot and brought forth in wedlock; so it fared with Betty. Being mistress of near three thousand pounds, she took no thought for the morrow, but equipping herself with a handsome chariot and necessary appurtenances, she hired some servants, and set out for York to visit her daughter, who was begotten by her natural son, as has been already mentioned.

Having sent a letter to the merchant, who was her child's trustee, he met her at Doncaster, and presented little miss to her, whom she received in her arms, with tears of joy, and taking her into the chariot, proceeded to the merchant's house, where she boarded for some time. She behaved herself in a very modest and decent manner during her continuance at York; and many gentlemen of that country made their addresses to her, believing her to be a great fortune, and that she would make a good wife, having provided so well for little miss. But she would not be drawn in by these *Yorkshire tikes* so easily as they imagined; a country life did not square with her inclinations, nor would she marry with any man but for interest sake, and that she might have an opportunity of plundering him when she had a mind to do it, from which the consideration of preserving her daughter's reputation, was the only thing that concerned her.

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Having sent a letter to the merchant, who was her child's trustee, he met her at Doncaster, and presented little miss to her, whom she received in her arms, with tears of joy, and taking her into the chariot, proceeded to the merchant's house, where she boarded for some time. She behaved herself in a very modest and decent manner during her continuance at York; and many gentlemen of that country made their addresses to her, believing her to be a great fortune, and that she would make a good wife, having provided so well for little miss. But she would not be drawn in by these *Yorkshire tikes* so easily as they imagined; a country life did not square with her inclinations, nor would she marry with any man but for interest sake, and that she might have an opportunity of plundering him when she had a mind to do it, from which the consideration of preserving her daughter's reputation, was the only thing that concerned her.

She soon grew weary of this town; and having made handsome presents to the merchant's wife, as an acknowledgment of the civilities she had received, and furnished her child with some trinkets, she set out for Scarborough, it being then the season of the year for the ladies to drink the water of the Spa. She was accompanied thither by the merchant and his wife, and was followed by many suitors, who were very assiduous in their courtship, which she seemed rather to encourage than forbid. And truly it happened very well for her that she did not give them a repulse; otherwise she might have been treated in the rudest manner, though she did not escape without a severe rebuff, which she certainly merited. For she had not been there a week, when she met with the *justice* to whom she had given a *winter's fire*; he accosted her in a very rough manner, exposing her as a bawd and whore, and related what he knew of her, except his being obliged to go into the *powdering-tub*, for being *too deeply* concerned with her.

Betty, who wanted not a native assurance, brazened it out to the last degree, and took no farther notice at that time, than saying, she pitied the poor unhappy gentleman's case, and was sorry that his friends, if he had any, should have so little regard for him, as to permit him to come abroad before he had perfectly recovered his senses; for in my opinion, added she, he is still a proper object of compassion; and a longer continuance in a dark room with clean straw, and his head shaved, might be very beneficial to him. "D—n you, for a common strumpet," said he, "would you endeavour with phrasaical simplicity to persuade the world that I am mad? you shall find that I have the right use of my senses. Hereupon he laid hold on her, and tore her head clothes, at which one of her admirers stepped up to him, took him from her, and upon his refusing to give satisfaction, caned him very heartily. Enquiry being made, who the lady and gentleman were, the merchant gave a very good account of Betty, and related what he knew of her: which, together with her equipage, induced the ladies to believe she was innocent. There was but one gentleman, who could tell who or what the other was, and to put the best gloss upon the matter, acknowledged, that he was inclineable to be lunatic at some particular seasons. But no sooner had the company been acquainted that he was a trading justice, but they set up a shout in derision of him. And when he appeared among them, the by-word was, the

trading justice; beware of the madman; let him be passed away to Bedlam: In short, finding himself despised, booied at, and made a *laughing-stock*, he privately sneaked off to York, vowing to be revenged on that cursed jade (Betty) as he called her, who had brought such a disgrace upon him.

Soon after the justice had thought fit to withdraw, Betty gave a handsome ball to the ladies and gentlemen, which was followed with a sumptuous entertainment: but they thinking it a disgrace to their country, to be out-done by a stranger, and one of the female sex, the Yorkshire gentlemen followed Betty's example, insomuch that there was a ball once a week during the season. Betty, who was naturally vain and proud, had furnished herself with several rich jewels, for which she gave a commission to her banker in London, with orders to remit two hundred pounds to her; and the season of the year declining, she made a second entertainment, more sumptuous than the former, and appeared in rich brocade, with a crotchet of diamonds in her hair, a diamond buckle at her girdle, and diamond laces, which, together with her brilliant ear-rings and neck-lace, made such a glittering show, that the like had never been seen at Scarborough. The next day she sent for the mayor of the town, and deposited a bank note of an hundred pounds in his hands, to place ten decayed housekeepers' children apprentices, and ordered twenty guineas to be distributed among the poor.

She then set forward for York, to which place she was guarded by several townsmen belonging to Scarborough, lest she might be robbed or insulted upon the road. She treated them very generously, and would have made them satisfaction for their trouble; but they would not accept any, being very well satisfied with what she had given so liberally to the poor of that town.

She did not design to continue at York above a fortnight, but at the importunity of the alderman, who was soon to be elected Lord Mayor, and the frequent desires of his lady, she complied with their request.

Here she met again the Middlesex Justice, who insulted her worse than he had done at Scarborough Wells; he again insisted upon her having been a carted-bawd, and a common strumpet, and raised such a mob that it was as much as the alderman could do to rescue her from their hands. She immediately sent for one of the city lawyers, who advised her to sue him, and she empowering him to proceed

against him, he was that evening arrested in an action of two thousand pounds; at this he began to change his note, and said, if she was not the person, he never saw two faces more alike one another in his life. But this did not serve his turn; as he could not find substantial bail, he was compelled to go to prison. The suit was carried on vigorously without loss of time, and a verdict given in favour of Betty for one thousand pounds damage, with full costs.

He now, though too late, repented his rashness, and offered to compound the matter with Betty, who, to gain the goodwill of the town, accepted two hundred pounds in bank notes, and his bond for three hundred more, payable after the expiration of six months. She then advised him to hasten to London, and look out sharp for business, for she would certainly put his bond in force, when it became due.

As Betty valued not money any longer than it was subservient to her pride, she gave one hundred guineas to the charity-schools, and fifty to be divided among such decayed housekeepers who had families, and wanted it most; by which she gained the applause of all the city, who extolled her generosity, and esteemed her one of the best and most innocent women, not only on account of her charity to the poor, but of her goodness in remitting the payment of five hundred pounds, though she had been so grossly vilified and abused by the justice, as they believed.

She made a most splendid appearance at the Lord Mayor's feast, which procured her the envy of many of the York ladies, who were galled at the sight, and so exasperated at her dancing with a finer air and better grace than they displayed, that they could not refrain from manifesting their resentment. Betty soon perceived it, and resolving to be even with the forwardest of them, communicated her design to a young gentleman, who promised to follow her directions. Soon after she danced a minuet with him, and then he chose the gentlewoman, against whom they had plotted, and Betty placing herself near her, spoke thus to her when the dance was over; "It gives me much satisfaction," says she "to see how much I am envied by a person, who is glad to accept what I leave; she may value herself upon it, for I am apt to think that the poor creature would have fallen into the vapours, had I not showed so much compassion for her, as to recommend a partner, lest she might have thought herself abandoned by all the sex. I know not any thing more mortifying to a woman, than to have herself despised;

and I think it is but reasonable, that she should return me thanks for my civility and kindness to her."

The gentlewoman, who was a brewer's daughter, bit her lips during the time that Betty spoke, but not being able to contain any longer, she made this answer: "I assure you, madam, if your discourse be levelled at me, I see no cause to thank you for what you call civility and kindness; nor do I think myself inferior to you in any respect, except age; and the gentleman with whom I danced, made choice of a virtuous woman." "Truly, madam," replied Betty, "I did not arraign your virtue, for your face is the best security you can have to guard it; and I dare affirm, that no man will attempt to seduce you, if you are so prudent as not to wear a mask.—Lord!" continued she, "what a nasty smell is here of sour small beer! but though I can admit some grains of allowance, yet it is good to remove in time, lest I be poisoned with a brewer's f —."

By this time they called for country dances, in which they spent the night: and in a few days after, Betty prepared for her journey to London. Before she set out from York, she began to cast up her accounts, and found she was worth two thousand five hundred pounds, reckoning her jewels and other valuable things at nineteen hundred. She could not be persuaded by the Lord Mayor, to send her precious moveables by the pack horses; but she resolved to carry them with her, saying, "that though she was a woman, yet she had the spirit of a man, and providing fire arms for her two servants, and a case of pistols for herself, she was guarded to Ferrybridge by the Lord Mayor's son, who had been bred at Cambridge, and offered his service to wait on her to London, but she would not permit him.

Here they continued all night, and took leave of each other the next morning after breakfast. To encourage her servants to behave themselves gallantly, in case they should be attacked by highwaymen, she promised to give each of them five pounds when they came to London. She was ten days upon the road between York and Epping Forest; for she chose to come through Cambridge, that she might have an opportunity of viewing the University; but about two miles distant from the Green Man, three highwaymen came up, two of whom, presenting their pistols to the footmen, they remained very passive, while the third rode up to the coach, and demanded Betty's watch, money, and jewels. "Nay, sir," said she, "since I am betrayed, it is but a

folly to capitulate, you shall be welcome to what I can give you; and pretending to put her hand into her pocket, she cocked one of her pistols, and discharging it, said, "If you like that, you shall have more." The highwayman gave a lamentable groan; upon which Betty ordered the coachman to drive on, but the other two overtaking them, threatened to shoot him, if he did not stop; and one of them, firing his pistol at Betty, shot her in the shoulder, and then rifling her and the coach, took away every thing they could find, and rode off with their wounded companion. Betty was obliged to take lodgings at Stratford, where she remained a considerable time under the care of an able surgeon, before she recovered. Every body admired her courage, and condemned the cowardly footmen, whom some gentlemen believed to be parties concerned in the robbery. They found out their mistress the next day, who having received some money from a banker, paid them their wages, and ordered their clothes to be stript off, which the coachman performed with pleasure.

One might expect that a person who had but a small share of common sense, would have been affected with the accidents and misfortunes which Betty had met with; but neither the great and heavy loss which had befallen her, nor the pain and anguish that she suffered before the cure was completed, made the least impression upon her mind, or rendered her uneasy in any degree whatever.

Her expences, during her continuance at Stratford, and what the surgeon demanded, amounted to one hundred pounds; and having nothing left but her linen, apparel, coach and horses, and what money remained in her banker's hands, she took a house in Theobald's Court, Theobald's Row, which she furnished very handsomely, and proposed to let lodgings. She sold her coach and horses, and discharged her coachmen, and having met with the woman's servant, who waited upon her when she was kept by the Lord C——, she received her into her service.

She had not been long in her house, when an Irish gentleman, who lived by his wits, and was very well known by the name of Smutty Will, took the second floor at half a guinea per week. They soon grew intimate, and such familiarities passed between them, that they did not escape the prying eyes of his wife, who being in a consumptive condition, was prevailed with to take a lodging in the country, for the benefit of the air. She had every thing that she expected or

desired, except the husband's company, for all her expences were defrayed by Betty, and likewise her funeral charges; for her husband's unkindness in not coming to see her above once a week, and not staying with her above an hour at a time, soon broke her heart.

They were now at liberty to revel in forbidden pleasures without controul, and they saved the maid the trouble of making two beds for them. The Middlesex justice's bond became due, and being assigned over to Smutty Will, it was paid in a very little time, and he soon lost the money at the Groom Porter's, though he understood all manner of gaming as well as any man in England. But he had not an opportunity of playing the sharper in this place; however, he shuffled with Betty, and drew money from her continually under a pretence of carrying on a law-suit against the justice, whom, he said, he had caused to be arrested, and that he had given in bail to the action.

He now passed for a baronet, under the name and title of Sir G——— B———, and removing into the first floor, which had been let for thirty shillings per week, he began, by the assistance of Betty, to play the common cheat. His first adventure was with a baronet at a coffee house by the Temple, who taking out a very handsome gold watch, and saying that it cost him fourscore guineas, Smutty Will told him, that as he was soon to be married to a great fortune, he should be very much obliged to him, if he would let him have it for half an hour, that he might show it to his watch maker, and he would deposit an hundred guineas till he returned. Sir Richard, who was a gentleman of much worth and honour, gratified his request, whereupon Smutty Will goes out of the coffee-room, and taking the baronet's servants and chariot, ordered them to make what haste they could to their master's house. When he came there, he asked for the lady, and making his obedience to her, told her, that he came from Sir Richard, who desired her ladyship to send him two hundred guineas, and produced the watch as a token. The lady did not suspect that there was any imposition in the case, and therefore went to her scrutoire and brought the money. Will taking his leave ordered the coachman to drive back to the coffee-house, and delivering the watch to the baronet, he returned the hundred guineas, and taking a turn or two in the room, drank a glass of ratifia, and went off undiscovered.

Soon after this he bespoke a rich suit of clothes, two

flaxen coloured perukes, fine lace, a brocade morning gown, holland and cambrick; all which he ordered to be brought to his lodgings in one morning. The persons, except the taylor, being brought into his bed chamber, were ordered to leave their several commodities, and call the next day, for he pretended to be a little indisposed with drinking too much the night before. They obeyed his commands, but the taylor hesitated upon the matter: upon which he rung the bell, and giving the key of the scrutoire to Betty, desired her to take out as much money as would pay the rascal's bill. He then swore that he should never be employed by his cousin the Lord —, for the future, and that if the suit did not fit him, he would have him arrested the next day. The taylor fearing he should lose the best customer he had, and seeing the heap of guineas which Betty took out of a private drawer, asked pardon, and said, he would wait upon Sir George, whenever he pleased to send for him; but he went to a new lodging that night, and bilked every one of them.

After this, his custom was to send for jewels, under a pretence that he was going to be married to a rich heiress, and then pretending to show them to the young lady in the next room, would go down a back pair of stairs, and escape undiscovered. But not being able to carry on this course any considerable time, Betty, who knew that he was an artist in counterfeiting any hand-writing, advised him to lodge some money in a goldsmith's hands in Fleet Street, and taking a note for that sum, he might counterfeit another for as much more as he pleased. He approved of the proposal; but thought he might get more by tricking two persons than one; and accordingly lodged two hundred pounds in each of their hands, and having received their cashier's notes for the money, forged two others for seven hundred pound each. He put off the real notes first and afterwards the other; but happening to be seen by one of the jewellers, whom he had tricked out of one thousand three hundred pounds in diamonds, he stopt him by the Royal Exchange, and being carried before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate, where he died of the jail distemper.

He sent often for Betty, who would not go near him; and at last threatening her in a very severe manner, she disposed of her house and furniture to a family who came out of the country to reside in London, and went into private lodgings.

The principal lodgers were shop-lifters, who by degrees enticed Betty to go with them, telling her how profitable the

business was, and how small the danger; assuring her, at the same time, that if they were taken in the fact, a little money would prevent a prosecution.

These alluring baits prevailed with Betty to make one of their number; and they had success for some time; but she imagining that she was as compleat a mistress of the science as any of the rest, went by herself, and was discovered in carrying off a piece of fine muslin. She desired the linen-draper to drink a glass of wine with her, and said she would discover something to him for his advantage; but he would not be drawn in by her wheedling tongue so easy as she imagined. However, she did prevail upon him to go to an adjoining tavern, where she offered to pay double the value for what she intended to steal; and withal, assured him it was the first crime of this nature she had ever been guilty of. She then gave him an account of several of the nobility, to whom she was very nearly related, they happened to be (most of them) his customers, and he promised, that if the account she gave him should prove true upon enquiry, he would be as favourable to her as possible. "But, said he, I must secure you till I can have an opportunity of applying myself to these noble persons, which I will do to-morrow." To this she joyfully consented; and when he went the next day, they did acknowledge that they had such an unfortunate relation, but since she had given up herself to such wicked courses, they gave him directions to prosecute her; adding, that though she should be condemned, they would take care to get her reprieved, on condition of transporting herself out of her Majesty's dominions.

This was mortifying news to Betty: and now she had but one dernier resort, which she managed with all the subtlety imaginable. "Sir," said she, "allow me but twenty-four hours, and in that time, I will undertake to reconcile myself to my relations; at least so far, as to cause them to retract the orders which they have given you to prosecute me: and that you may be assured to find me at the expiration of that time, enter an action against me, and let me be carried to one of the compters." The linen-draper, not aware of the trap which Betty had laid for him, fell into it directly; but she had not been above three hours in the jail, when she sent for an attorney, who found bail for her, she having given him an account of the affair, which he found to be true, and she was again set at liberty. This cost her near an hundred pounds; however, she thought the money was well laid out,

since it prevented her from being sent to Newgate, and condemned at the Old Bailey.

Betty considering that to stay in London was the way to be discovered, and consequently to undergo the punishment which she had so narrowly avoided, meeting one evening with a young spark, she prevailed with him to take a trip with her into Sussex, where she knew was a company of strolling-players, whom they met and joined at Lewes. As he was not full one and twenty years of age, she advised him to sell his fortune, which was five hundred pounds, for as much as he could get for it; he followed her advice, and disposing of it to his elder brother for four hundred pounds, though he wanted but six months of attaining to one and twenty years, he returned to Betty, and they inveigling the principal players, contracted with them to go to Ireland.

The company being divided, he that had been master could not carry on his business, and therefore was necessitated to sell his stock of cloathes, scenes, &c. to Betty, and he, with the rest, entered into the same contract with the others, so that Betty was now sole mistress, which was the point she aimed at. She found means to inveigle her daughter, whom she had by her first husband, to leave him, and come to her; who having led a very uneasy life at home, rejoiced to lay hold on that opportunity. As she was mistress of a deluding tongue, in a very little time she drew in the young fellow to marry her, having first taken care that it should not be in his power to lay claim to any thing that was hers; and now they began their journey for Ireland, taking a rout through most of the principal towns that lay between London and West-chester; in each of which they met with great encouragement.

When they embarked at Park Gate on board a merchant ship, they had a favourable wind, which carried them safe along the Welch coast; but they had not sailed three leagues beyond Holy-Head, when a violent storm arose, which obliged the master to make the best of his way, and stand in for the southern parts of Ireland. They were three days in the storm before they could reach any shore with safety; but at last, when the wind began to abate, they stood in for the Cove of Cork, and anchored there. They soon landed at the key of that city, and having refreshed themselves, Betty applied herself to the Mayor and Aldermen, who presently granted her request, and gave the company leave to act there as often as they pleased. She presently set men

to work, who soon built a stage and other conveniences in an old warehouse, which she hired, and their first play was the *Tempest*: or the *Enchanted Island*. Here they continued all the winter; and when the summer approached, they strolled to other parts of the kingdom, where they met with good success.

This course of life they steered for some years, when Betty, who had accustomed herself to eat and drink the best, was seized with a violent pain in her side one day, as the company were travelling towards a town called Tralee, to which they had been invited; and the weather being very hot, her distemper increased, which obliged her to go into a barn, where she died, before a surgeon could be brought from the next village.

What became of her daughter is not material to our present purpose; all I shall further add is, that when she perceived the approach of death, she repented of her irregular and wicked manner of living, promising an amendment if she should survive her distemper; but when she found there were no hopes of life, she breathed her last, with an intire resignation, in the 54th year of her age.

FINIS.



